NTs, it would not be correct to position these Institutions straightaway alongside the NTs.

There is a proposal with the Government to set up a new IIM in the North Eastern Region (NER).

There is no proposal for setting up a new Institute by way of NT or IIM in Orissa.

Confusion in seat sharing

1477. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether confusion and uncertainty prevails in the matter of seat sharing between Government and College Managements in professional courses; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the steps taken by Government to clear the confusion and safeguard interest of the student community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government have no such information. Admissions to professional courses are regulated by the respective State Governments or Universities as the case may be. The Central Government has prepared a draft Bill as requested by several State Governments, for the regulation of admissions and the fixation of fee in private professional educational Institutions. The draft has been circulated to all the State Governments, concerned Ministries and other stakeholders to elicit their views.

Facilities to visually handicapped students

1478. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether visually handicapped students pursuing graduate and post-graduate courses are provided with recorded course materials and are allowed to take assistance of writers in the examinations;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that adequate recorded material even for regular courses is not available and the criteria stipulated in respect of writers is making it impossible for visually handicapped students to find suitable writers to write their papers; and

(d) if so, the measures contemplated to ensure adequate supply of recorded materials and relaxed norms for the writers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC does not have any such scheme, to provide assistance for recorded course material. The UGC has, however, sent a circular to universities to provide writers for visually handicapped students. A writer is also provided to the candidate appearing in the UGC NET who is required to be a graduate but in the subject different from that of candidate. Extra time — 30 minutes — is also provided for each of the two objective type papers and 45 minutes extra time is provided for paper III written exam.

Private educational institutions

1479. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many private institutions in school education, higher education and professional courses as on today;

(b) if so, the details of the per capita public spending on education on primary school, higher education and professional courses for last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) the steps taken, if any, to regulate admissions, fees and quality in school education and higher education including professional courses; and

(d) the number of Government aided, unaided schools and number of private self-financing professional and higher education institutions for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.